FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 3 *4 January 1979*

ARGENTINA

Bolivian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 'on Private Visit' B 1
Meets With Gualter Allara B 1
TELAM Comments on Chilean Troop Buildup, Intentions B 1
CP Leader Comments on Beagle Issue, Military-Civilian Dialog B 2
[Prague RUDE PRAVO 29 Dec]
Briefs: YPF's Yearend Report; Journalist Kidnaped B 3

BRAZIL

O ESTADO Believes Chile, Argentina Ready for War [28 Dec] D 1
Briefs: Coffee Revenues; Inflation Rate in 1978 D 1

CHILE

Papal Envoy Holds Meetings With Pinochet, Cubillos E 1
Cubillos-Samore Morning Meeting E 1
Samore Comments on Pinochet Meeting E 1
'Crucial' Meeting at Foreign Ministry E 1
Additional Samore-Cubillos Meeting Scheduled E 2
Cubillos, Samore Comment E 2
Foreign Minister on Papal Mediation With Bolivia E 3

COLOMBIA

Four Killed in Army Raid on Alleged Guerrilla Hideout F 1
Kidnapers Kill Texas Petroleum Company Executive F 1
President's European Tour Confirmed for June F 1

ECUADOR

Ex-Government Minister Implicated in Calderon Murder G 1
Defense Minister Protests Press Treatment of Calderon Case G 1
Briefs: Four Leading Political Parties G 1

PARAGUAY

Editorial Calls for Changes in Judicial Branch H 1
[ABC COLOR 29 Dec]

PERU

Papers, Political Leaders React to Chilean Espionage Cases J 1

VENEZUELA

President-Elect Denies Remarks by Alleged Spokesman L 1
Herrera Campins Urges Mexico To Join OPEC L 1

MEXICO

Havana Reports Waldheim Comment on Nicaragua, Cuba Visit M 1
Contributions to Inter-American Development Bank Announced M 1

PANAMA

Spadafora Confirms Deaths of Panamanian Brigade Members N 1
Royo Addresses Canal Zone Workers, Residents [STAR AND HERALD 3 Jan] N 1
Commentator on Royo Speech, Opposition to Soviet Embassy N 2
Briefs: New Radio Libertad Director N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Shoman, Perdomo Resign Cabinet Posts [THE REPORTER 31 Dec] P 1

COSTA RICA

Border Reported Reopened 3 January P 1
Seven OAS Observers Expected Next Week P 1
Preferential Oil Pact Expected From Venezuela P 2

EL SALVADOR

Presidency Denies Attendance at Reported Summit P 2
Guatemalan Paper Publishes Salvadoran Guerrillas' Statement P 3

GUATEMALA

ACAN Reports Secret Central American Presidential Summit P 3
Christian Democrats Denounce U.S. Troop Offer P 4

HONDURAS

Socialist Party Established, Issues Communique P 5
Cement Shortage Causing Construction Losses P 5

NICARAGUA

Sandinists Stage Attacks in Tipitapa, Elsewhere P 6
Several Groups Work To Establish Patriotic Front P 7
Opposition Leader Says Government Situation 'Desperate' P 7

CUBA

Former Political Prisoners Could Go to Panama [EFE] Q 1
Castro Brothers Attend Reception for Visiting Delegations Q 1
FAR Hosts Reception for Visiting Military Delegations Q 1
Venezuelan Foreign Minister Attends Celebration Q 1
Soviet Delegation Leader Romanov Departs Q 2
Raul Castro Chairs Decoration of Congress Participants Q 2
Veiga, Ramirez Make Speeches Q 2
Senen Casas Presides at FAR Rationalization Meeting Q 3
Further on National Assembly Ordinary Session Q 3
Details of 1979 Budget [EFE] Q 4
New Deputies Announced Q 4
International Activities of Assembly Q 5
Electrical Service Problems Q 5
More Reports Heard Q 5
Assembly Session Ends Q 5
Armando Hart Receives Artistic Delegation Returning From U.S. Q 6
Garcia Congratulates Nuevitas Port Workers Q 6
Ethiopian Socialist Solidarity Exhibit Opens Q 7
Juan Almeida Meets With Luis Cabral in Algiers Q 7
Ambassador to SRV Reiterates Cuban Support Q 8
Q 8

OTHER COUNTRIES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PLD Leader Calls for Government Ownership of Refinery V 1

HAITI

President Duvalier Announces 'More Dynamic' Foreign Policy V 1

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Government To Probe Allegations of Texaco Pullout V 1

BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES 'ON PRIVATE VISIT'

PY031731Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1617 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (NA)--Marcelo Ostria Trigo, under secretary of the Bolivian Foreign Ministry, has arrived here "on a private visit," according to the Bolivian Embassy. Ostria Trigo arrived this noon at Ezeiza International Airport, where he was met by Agustin Saavedra Weise, the Bolivian charge d'affairs ad interim.

Sources indicated that Ostria Trigo may take advantage of his stay in this capital to meet with the papal envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, to raise the possibility of the pope's intercession with the Chilean Government in favor of the Bolivian claims for an outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

Meets With Gualter Allara

PY040142Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2333 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (TELAM)--After a meeting with his Argentine colleague, Navy Capt Gualter Allara, Bolivian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Marcelo Ostria Trigo categorically denied that his visit to our country "is related to an alleged mediation by the papal envoy in the Bolivian claim for a sovereign outlet to the Pacific."

The Bolivian diplomat, who arrived today in Buenos Aires on a visit which he termed as "private," visited the Foreign Ministry accompanied by Agustin Saavedra Weise, his country's charge d'affairs (interim ambassador).

In brief remarks made to the press on leaving San Martin Palace, Ostria explained in answering a question that "it is not Bolivia's intention to interfere in an issue which does not fall within its scope," in a direct reference to the task which the papal envoy is currently carrying out in seeking a way to overcome the existing dispute between Argentina and Chile over the delimitation of southern territories.

Ostria insisted that his meeting with Allara was made with the intention of "meeting and greeting the person who occupies a position similar to mine," and he reiterated the "private" nature of his visit to Argentina.

TELAM COMMENTS ON CHILEAN TROOP BUILDUP, INTENTIONS

PY040058Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2305 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Jan (TELAM)--The various belligerent activities being carried out by Chile are perplexing qualified diplomatic sources who are asking themselves whether the self-touted Chilean efforts to achieve peace are actually nothing but a facade to hide ill intentions or, as an analyst put it, a way of practicing the Spanish saying, "praying to God and hitting with the mace."

These facts make any commentary unnecessary: In the Osorno area, facing the cities of San Carlos de Bariloche and San Martin de los Andes in Neuquen Province, the Chileans have stationed 2 divisions with more than 20,000 well-equipped men.

According to information provided by persons who have crossed the Las Cuevas tunnel in recent days, the Chileans have deployed large numbers of infantry troops, reinforced with artillery of various bore sizes and large numbers of armoured and other type vehicles--all of them fit for operation on high mountains--in the zone of Juncal, Juncadillo and Caracoles.

Obviously these facts speak for themselves and demonstrate one thing: No matter how much Chile boasts about its disposition to negotiate and its pacifism, it really intends to follow the strategy of the Prussian Von Clausewitz, who said that war is nothing but the continuation of politics through different means.

CP LEADER COMMENTS ON BEAGLE ISSUE, MILITARY-CIVILIAN DIALOG

AU0309000Y Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 29 Dec 78 p 6 AU

[Article by Jaime Zurlatti: "Necessity of Unity of Democratic Forces; General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina on the Situation in the Country"]

[Excerpts] All Argentine democratic forces, both civilian and military, must close ranks even more strongly and mutually coordinate their course to halt the growing threat of a fascist putch that is being prepared by some influential reactionary forces, Geronimo Arnedo Alvarez, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina, declared at a recent informal comradely meeting of Argentine Communists. Argentine Communists assume a constructive critical attitude to the political process that started with the military intervention in March 1976 and they are striving for the development in the country and the government policy to be moved in the direction of progress, social prosperity, democracy and peace. The Argentine people are now facing two grave problems. These are the sharpening border conflict with Chile and the escalating battle within the government. The most reactionary civilian and military circles are trying to exploit both these problems to pursue their own Pinochet-like intentions and to eliminate even the remaining, already limited freedoms.

The Communist Party of Argentina declares its support for the policy of bilateral negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Chile over the sovereignty over three islands in the Beagle Channel. It appeals, therefore, to the Argentine people to be vigilant and actively participate in the struggle for peace against all war-mongering plans because the country's democratic future depends on peace.

The recent reorganization of the Argentine Government did not in the least contribute to the promised political relaxation that was to result in an understanding between civilian and military bodies. The confirmation of the much criticized Minister Jose A. Martinez de Hoz in his office and the appointment of several other ministers with a marked antipeople orientation is an unambigious concession to the rightwing and threatens the political dialog between the military government and political parties announced by the president on several occasions.

No important goals can be achieved without the participation and the support of the Argentine people. It is highly urgent in this context to solve the problem of thousands of political prisoners and clarify the fate of citizens who have disappeared, among whom are hundreds of communists.

Among the most important demands of the democratic forces is that the government's interventions in workers organizations be halted and the activity of trade unions normalized. Only the workers themselves can consistently solve all the problems of the workers movement.

However, the Argentine working people must also overcome their organizational and political fragmentation and create a joint coordination center aimed at this, a center that would unite all workers forces and contribute to a decisive reversal toward democratization. A powerful movement of antimonopolist and anti-imperialist forces that is willing to contribute to building a new Argentina is now active in the country. They form the majority but their greatest weakness is the lack of unity and joint course.

Argentine Communists propose a minimum program of joint action to overcome this situation. It comprises the beginning of a dialog without any political discrimination, an end to terrorism and retaliatory excesses, release of political prisoners, solution of the situation of "disappeared" Argentines and the elaboration of a new economic program that would take the interests of the working people and the entire nation into account. The joint course of all democratic forces should culminate in the formation of a civilian-military alliance on the basis of a national democratic program aimed at finding a constitutional solution to the present situation, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina said in conclusion.

BRIEFS

YPF'S YEAREND REPORT--Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (TELAM)--Manuel Lopez Alvarez, marketing director of Government Oil Deposits [YPF], has reported that the state enterprise expended the amount of $3 billion during 1978. Fuels sold by the YPF have covered 67.7 percent. He also reported that there was a savings of $30 million in the import of crude. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Dec 78 PY]

JOURNALIST KIDNAPED--Salta, 2 Jan (NA)--Rubem Mario Gomez Quesada, secretary of the newspaper EL INTRANSIGENTE, was kidnaped at gunpoint from his residence last Friday by three men wearing hoods over their heads. The wife of the journalist reported the kidnaping to the central police department. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1925 GMT 2 Jan 79 PY]

O ESTADO BELIEVES CHILE, ARGENTINA READY FOR WAR

PY291717Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Dec 78 p 7 PY

[By correspondent Marcos Wilson]

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires--The trip of Pope John Paul II's envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, to Buenos Aires and Santiago has initiated a process of relaxation in the tense Argentine-Chilean relations, but it has definitely not removed the risk of an armed conflict between the two countries as a result of their disagreement over borderlines in the Beagle Channel.

Diplomatic sources are saying that only complete demobilization of Argentine and Chilean troops massed on the Beagle will be capable of relieving the military tension which is reaching the boiling point in the continent's southern region. As long as the two countries continue to send troops and armaments to the strategic areas, tension will only rise toward a critical point at which any minor incident will touch off a major conflict. The declaration by a member of the Argentine Armed Forces who did not want to identify himself sounded like an appeal: "It is becoming very difficult to control human tension throughout the military apparatus deployed to defend the national sovereignty." Diplomatic analysts unanimously state that an Argentine-Chilean agreement on the Beagle is impossible due to the unyielding positions held by the two countries at decisive points in the negotiations.

In view of those rigid positions, Cardinal Samore's mission was headed for failure from the very beginning. However, the Vatican is already aware of the impossibility of obtaining any concession, and therefore the envoy of John Paul II is much more interested in easing tensions than in laying the basis for an agreement on the Beagle. If Cardinal Samore should succeed in convincing Presidents Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Rafael Videla to order the withdrawal of military forces from the border zones, his mission will have had significant success. With some margin of certainty, analysts affirm that the church is interested in creating conditions so the final solution to the border dispute will be postponed. With the backing of the West's most important countries, the Vatican will only try to remove the danger of imminent war by convincing the military leaders of the two countries that they should undertake long-term negotiations, giving themselves 2 or more years to discuss the problem.

This Vatican approach is running against the interests of the more radical sectors in the two countries, which look at an armed conflict not only as a means "to uphold the national security undiminished," but also as a means for their own survival as political forces. These sectors have succeeded in gaining the support of the "moderates" who have not been able to check the belligerent race. Argentina and Chile are ready for war. The two countries are at present focusing their attention almost exclusively on the Beagle conflict. A great deal of each nation's efforts is devoted to military readiness. The Argentine and Chilean economies are stagnating except in sectors connected with military affairs.

BRIEFS

COFFEE REVENUES--Through 25 December, Brazil has exported this year 12.2 million bags of coffee and by year's end revenues should be $2.3 billion, $3 million less than last year. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Dec 78 p 22 PY]

INFLATION RATE IN 1978--Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen disclosed yesterday that the inflation rate in 1978 was 40.8 percent, higher than the 38.7-percent inflation rate in 1977. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Jan 79 p 1 PY]

PAPAL ENVOY HOLDS MEETINGS WITH PINOCHET, CUBILLOS

Cubillos-Samore Morning Meeting

PY031448Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1433 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (TELAM)--Radio Nacional de Chile has reported that "Cardinal Samore met this morning from 1000 to 1050 with Foreign Minister Cubillos at the apostolic nunciature." The station added that "later they went to the residency of President Augusto Pinochet, where a meeting to discuss the situation with Argentina began at 1100."

Samore Comments on Pinochet Meeting

PY031647Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1550 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[By special correspondent Jose Ignacio Lopez]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (NA)--The papal envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, reported this noon that he exchanged ideas with President Augusto Pinochet at a meeting he described as very pleasant, and announced that he will hold another meeting--which will probably be lengthy--at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon.

Cardinal Samore met with the Chilean president at the latter's private residence from 1100 to 1145 and made a brief statement shortly before noon upon his return to the nunciature. "I met with the president for 45 minutes. Our meeting was very frank and very pleasant, I would say almost friendly, and we exchanged ideas," the cardinal told Argentine newsmen.

He added: "Since discussions are now being held, it is better to maintain reserve and discretion. Yet whenever discussions are underway, there is always hope for achieving something positive." The cardinal said he does not have anything scheduled, but noted that this afternoon "we will meet at the Foreign Ministry, perhaps in a lengthy meeting."

The papal envoy, who was only carrying a small blue folder, entered the nunciature with Msgr Faustino Sainz Munoz and Father Fiorello Cavalli. There is no information about Cardinal Samore's future activities or how long he will stay in Santiago on his second visit as part of his peace mission to obtain an agreement between Argentina and Chile on their conflict in the southern region.

'Crucial' Meeting at Foreign Ministry

PY032137Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (AFP)--The pope's envoy, Antonio Samore, began a meeting in the Chilean Foreign Ministry which has been labeled as crucial for the future negotiations with Argentina regarding the Beagle Channel conflict.

It is believed that the meeting, in which Foreign Minister Cubillos and Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez are taking part, will last 2 or more hours.

Additional Samore-Cubillos Meeting Scheduled

PY032327Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2210 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (NA)--Cardinal Samore, the pope's envoy, tonight said that the 2-hour meeting with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos "was positive," but explained that the end of his mission is still far away.

The cardinal also said that he will meet with the Chilean foreign minister again tomorrow; therefore the possibility of his return to Buenos Aires has been shelved, at least before noon.

The Vatican envoy also said that there is still no talk of an eventual meeting between the Argentine and Chilean foreign ministers, as has been reported by the press.

Cubillos, Samore Comment

PY040224Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2341 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 3 Jan (NA)--Papal envoy Cardinal Antonio Samore tonight said at the end of an extensive meeting in the Foreign Ministry that the meeting was positive but that it was still far from over and that there is still no talk about a meeting of Argentine and Chilean foreign ministers in Montevideo.

The cardinal made these remarks on the steps of the entrance of La Moneda Palace minutes before 1900 at the end of a meeting which began 2 hours earlier with Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos, Interior Minister Javier Fernandez and other Foreign Ministry officials.

Samore, accompanied by Cubillos and the apostolic nuncio, Msgr Angelo Sobano, announced that a meeting will be held in the Foreign Ministry again tomorrow and that at present there is no new scheduled meeting with President Pinochet.

The pope's envoy, who will hold mass in a temple near Maipu honoring the virgin Carmen, was besieged by reporters of the two countries and said: "This has been a meeting which I am labeling not only pleasant but positive because we have spoken and listened. We have talked and we have a more complete, more organized vision of the situation."

[Question] Cardinal, there is talk of a foreign ministers meeting with you in Montevideo.

[Answer] We have not talked about this yet. We are still far from a conclusion.

[Question] Are you optimistic?

[Answer] I would rather say that I am not pessimistic.

His last words were lost when he got into the automobile waiting for him across the Plaza de la Constitucion.

In conclusion, the cardinal said that he will meet with the foreign minister tomorrow "and we will then see."

After the cardinal's car left, Foreign Minister Cubillos said: "The meeting was very positive. We are continuing the exchange of opinions, ideas. As the cardinal said, the meeting was pleasant, cordial. We will continue to work with the team of advisers, trying to clarify ideas so that the cardinal may have a more complete vision of the Chilean position."

[Question] Is there a Chilean answer to an Argentine proposal?

[Answer] There are ideas by the cardinal which are being conveyed from one party to the other, ideas from the two parties which are conveyed to the cardinal. Some of these ideas are compatible, others are not.

In answer to another question, Cubillos said that he believes that "progress has been made" in the negotiations. Asked about a possible meeting of foreign ministers in Montevideo, he said: "As the cardinal said, we are not at that stage. There are many possible countries where a meeting of foreign ministers could be held."

Asked if the problem of Chileans expelled from Argentina was discussed during the meeting, the foreign minister said that this problem was discussed, as well as "all the information we have regarding the conflict with Argentina."

The foreign minister explained that the presence of the interior minister in the meeting was "to explain the problems created here by the conflict with Argentina."

[Question] Is there an Argentine answer to the protest presented by the Chilean Embassy in Buenos Aires and have the expulsions stopped?

[Answer] There has been no reply and I believe that, unfortunately, the expulsion of Chileans has not stopped. We are asking our citizens to have confidence that these particular situations will be solved in the general agreement we are trying to reach.

[Question] Has the cardinal made any statements regarding this problem?

[Answer] I do not want to go into the confidential matters we have discussed. Thank you very much.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON PAPAL MEDIATION WITH BOLIVIA

PY031355Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Jan 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 2 Jan (LATIN)--Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos refused here today to comment on reports regarding an alleged Bolivian move to request the pope's mediation in the problem of Bolivia's landlocked situation. The Chilean foreign minister said in reply to a question by the press: "I have only press reports about this and we will have to wait for formal news."

According to reports, certain Bolivian sectors have suggested that the military government of that country request papal mediation in order to obtain a solution to the problem of its geographic isolation.

FOUR KILLED IN ARMY RAID ON ALLEGED GUERRILLA HIDEOUT

PA032319Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Jan (AFP)--Four persons were shot to death by Colombian troops today during a raid on an alleged guerrilla hideout, it was officially revealed.

Bogota is the site of a military operation seeking to recover 5,700 firearms--including rifles, bazookas and mortars--stolen from the army 2 days ago through a tunnel. The theft took place at the Military Institutes Brigade. Responsibility for it was claimed by the self-styled M-19 movement, a mysterious extreme left group.

KIDNAPERS KILL TEXAS PETROLEUM COMPANY EXECUTIVE

PA032225Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2213 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 3 Jan (AFP)--It has been learned here that Nicolas Escobar Soto, the Colombian manager of the Texas Petroleum Company, was assassinated today by his kidnapers.

A group of unidentified persons had kidnaped Escobar Soto in Bogota in mid-September last year.

The executive, for whom a huge ransom was being demanded, was shot by his abductors inside a tunnel located in the Lucerna suburb, southwest of Bogota, when the army and the police discovered them.

PRESIDENT'S EUROPEAN TOUR CONFIRMED FOR JUNE

PA031919Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota--San Carlos Palace today confirmed President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's upcoming international tour at the invitation of several European governments.

The Presidency's General Secretariat reported that the chief of state has agreed to go to France, Switzerland and the Soviet Union next June.

The specific date for President Turbay's departure for Spain has not been confirmed.

EX-GOVERNMENT MINISTER IMPLICATED IN CALDERON MURDER

PA040019Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2311 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 3 Jan (AFP)--Former Ecuadorean Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas and "several other generals" who were not identified have been tacitly implicated by one of the principal persons charged with the murder of former presidential candidate Abdon Calderon Munoz. Student Guillermo Mendez, accused of driving the motorcycle from which the fatal shots were fired at Calderon, told the police that one of those involved in the murder had assured him "that the minister would take care of the problem" if any clues were found which might serve to identify the authors of the crime.

In a long statement to the police published today by Quito's papers, Mendez affirmed that the organizer of the murder had told him "that several generals had met with the government minister and agreed to beat up Abdon Calderon and injure his leg because he was harshly criticizing the present government."

The papers said today that so far three police officers, two public security agents and several members of the Atala [not further identified] terrorist group have been connected with the murder. However, it is the first time that one of the accused has referred directly to former Government Minister Jarrin Cahuenas, who was removed from his post on 20 December, together with Ecuadorean police chief Gen Alberto Villamarin.

DEFENSE MINISTER PROTESTS PRESS TREATMENT OF CALDERON CASE

PA040337Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 3 Jan (AFP)--Defense Minister Andres Arrata voiced his "protest" tonight because the press is creating a scandal and resorting to sensationalism over "statements by a hoodlum" against former Government Minister Gen Bolivar Jarrin. He was referring to the statements made by activist Guillermo Mendez, one of those implicated in the assassination of former presidential candidate Abdon Calderon Munoz.

"To regard statements made by a hoodlum as absolute truth and to pass judgment on the basis of them is to commit an even worse crime, for this undermines the very bases of society and of institutions such as the navy, which are characterized by the goodness and seriousness of their actions," the minister commented.

General Arrata asked the communications media to fulfill their civic obligation of allowing the judicial branch to hear evidence and pass judgment in accordance with our laws, "without rushing to condemn either personnel or institutions merely on the basis of statements made by confessed criminals." The general affirmed that the investigation on the assassination will be carried through to the very end.

BRIEFS

FOUR LEADING POLITICAL PARTIES--Quito--According to the results of the 16 June elections, the four leading political parties in Ecuador are the Concentration of Popular Forces, the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party and the Democratic Left, in that order. [Quito Cadena Amarillo, Azul y Rojo in Spanish 2330 GMT 20 Dec 78 PA]

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR CHANGES IN JUDICIAL BRANCH

PY301218Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Dec 78 p 14 PY

[Editorial: "Searching for Hard-Working, Honest and Capable Justice"]

[Text] The constitutional term which ended on 15 August 1978 was one of the worst periods for the administration of justice. It is no exaggeration to say that the population in general has no confidence in the administration of justice as it is expected. The bar association has expressed the same opinion, and in any sincere conversation with persons linked with justice and its activities, the feeling is the same. If all these things do not come out more clearly and fervently and if the complaints expressed in a low voice almost never reach the public, it is only because of a number of circumstances--fear in some cases and interest in others--which have no relation at all to the real crisis the administration of justice is going through.

Under these conditions, the beginning of a new judicial term in accordance with the system of periodic renewal of the members of the Justice Department established by the constitution creates hope and fear at the same time--fear in the face of a government silence that everything will stay the same, hope in many circles that an effort will be made to obtain better courts than in the previous term. Curiously, it seems that an age-long resignation seems to inhibit even the hope that excellent judges can be appointed for their ability, hard work, integrity and independence.

Therefore, it does not seem possible that any objections may appear from any group to the names of persons who have been members of the judicial branch in the previous term being mentioned again as candidates for the judicial branch despite the fact that they have not shown sufficient professional and moral ability. Therefore, in any case, the most that could be achieved is a more or less slight, but carefully balanced improvement in the administration of justice.

No matter how long this "tradition" has influenced the judicial branch--if we can call it a tradition--it is still difficult to accept it in reality. It is difficult because of the obvious current situation and it is also difficult because it does not comply with the provisions stated in the constitution that the judicial branch should really be one of the public powers and a sure guarantee that a state of law prevails in the country.

The executive power has a great responsibility in the appointment of new members of the Supreme Court, and the responsibility of the Senate is not much less since according to the constitution, the Senate must not only approve the appointments, but must really study the qualifications of the candidates in the full sense of the word.

The same will happen with the appointment of court members, judges and other members of the judicial branch with regard to approval by the Supreme Court.

For many reasons--considering the requirements of the national constitution, the people's desire and the demands of the country's future, since development and progress cannot be carried out if the judicial institution is not perfected--this is the time to change the direction of history and, on the basis of the forthcoming appointments, establish a hard-working, honest and capable administration of justice.

PAPERS, POLITICAL LEADERS REACT TO CHILEAN ESPIONAGE CASES

PA292158Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 29 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 29 Dec (AFP)--Several political leaders and three Lima newspapers today severely condemned two acts of espionage by Chilean officials and diplomats, while an envoy of President Augusto Pinochet explained the situation to Peruvian authorities.

Popular Christian Party leader Luis Bedoya said that he endorses the government's decision regarding Chilean espionage, but he demanded more official information while acknowledging the need to preserve national security.

Christian Democratic leader Hector Cornejo has described Chile's attitude as "inconceivably reprovable," pointing out that these espionage activities have caused "repugnance and repulsion."

Genaro Ledesma, president of the extreme left Popular Student, Peasant and Worker Front, has stated: "The Peruvian people have reacted with indignation" to the Chilean diplomats' activities, "but this abuse against Peru should be punished more severely."

According to Peruvian Communist Party (orthodox) Secretary General Jorge del Prado, the Chilean Government responds with spies to Peru's gestures of friendship, and this is obviously condemnable.

For his part, APRA [Popular American Revolutionary Alliance] leader Andres Townsend voiced hope that the hemispheric peace and integration process will not be affected by this or any other type of activity.

"This act of aggression must be taken very much into account in the future," Socialist Revolutionary Party leader Leonidas Rodriguez noted, while Roger Caceres, leader of the Peasants and Workers National Front, described Chile as expansionist and aggressive.

The official newspaper LA CRONICA's editorial notes that Peru's desire to more firmly consolidate its relations with Chile "have felt the unpleasant blow of two incidents" involving Chilean officers and diplomats. We are, then, confronting attitudes that deserve the strongest national rejection," the morning newspaper states, adding that Peru's good faith has been met with "a completely wrong interpretation of its true and lofty meaning."

Meanwhile, OJO writes that "Chile's condemnable and dangerous attitude does not lead to the reaffirmation of the much praised hemispheric solidarity but instead leads to cliffs that are highly risky for peace and agreement."

Finally, the newspaper LA PRENSA voices its "strong protest" over these incidents which "contradict the widely proclaimed cordiality and good intentions of those who plan and execute Chile's foreign policy."

PRESIDENT-ELECT DENIES REMARKS BY ALLEGED SPOKESMAN

PA031617Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The press office of President-elect Luis Herrera Campins has said that statements made by an alleged spokesman of the president-elect which were published by the Miami HERALD were not authorized or reviewed by Herrera Campins.

According to the 29 December edition of the Miami HERALD, Alfredo Quintana, who identified himself during a news conference in Miami as a spokesman of the president-elect, said that the new Venezuelan administration will be pro-United States. Quintana also said that Venezuela is a firm ally of the United States and will try to restrain future oil price increases.

The press office of the president-elect issued a statement clarifying the situation. It stated that Herrera Campins has not authorized any official to make statements on aspects of the next administration's domestic and foreign policy. The press office reiterated the orientation of the policies of the Herrera Campins administration which begins on 12 March. This orientation is embodied in a domestic and foreign policy that is based on social justice, common well-being, the people's participation in matters related to the harmonious development of the country, the improvement of the democratic system, mutual respect and cooperation between states and the strengthening of peace and internal security. Friendship and cooperation with the U.S. Government and people are included in the framework of those objectives, Herrera Campins' office added.

HERRERA CAMPINS URGES MEXICO TO JOIN OPEC

PA030156Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0059 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Jan (EFE)--Venezuelan President-elect Luis Herrera Campins has urged Mexico to join OPEC. In an interview granted to the local weekly PROCESO and published today, Herrera said that in this manner Mexico would join "the vanguard of developing countries which are defending their raw materials and proposing rational use of them."

He added: "I do not see Mexico as a competitor. I sincerely want to see it as a partner; the third Latin American OPEC partner."

"I hope that now, when Mexico has discovered huge oilfields and is becoming a great petroleum-producing country, it will join us in OPEC," he added.

So far the Mexican Government has said that it is not necessary to join OPEC and that, although it is not a member, it respects OPEC's prices and attitudes. Mexico also believes that as a member it would become involved in a series of political problems.

According to the latest official estimates, Mexico's petroleum reserves have been set at 40.194 billion barrels proven, 44.612 billion barrels probable and 200 billion barrels possible.

HAVANA REPORTS WALDHEIM COMMENT ON NICARAGUA, CUBA VISIT

FL031213Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim warned last night in Mexico City that the Nicaraguan situation constitutes a grave threat for international peace.

The UN leader made the statement minutes after holding talks with Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo. During the meeting that topic was discussed. Waldheim said that the United Nations condemns the violation of human rights by the Somoza dictatorship. Waldheim is visiting Mexico as part of a tour of several Latin American countries which includes Jamaica and Cuba.

Referring to Cuba, the UN secretary general told PRENSA LATINA that he attributes great importance to the talks he will hold with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. I will discuss with President Castro the more urgent and grave problems of the international political, social and economic situation, such as the problems of relations between industrialized and developing countries as well as other matters dealing with the urgency of creating a new international economic order, Waldheim stressed.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNOUNCED

FL032037Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1956 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 2 Jan [as received] (INFORMEX)--Mexico will contribute $559.9 million to increase total resources of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This increase is expected to amount to 65 percent. Mexico also will contribute $62 million to be totally paid in cash for the special operations fund of that banking institution.

The aforementioned has been announced in a Bank of Mexico communique.

Out of Mexico's contribution, $517.9 million or 92.5 percent will be in demand capital that is not paid in cash, but represents a guarantee for passive operations of the IDB, $42.5 million or [figure indistinct] percent in foreign exchange and $14 million or 25 percent in national currency. [all figures as received]

SPADAFORA CONFIRMS DEATHS OF PANAMANIAN BRIGADE MEMBERS

PA040121Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] We have here a message from Dr Hugo Spadafora, commander of the group of Panamanian brigade members fighting with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. A few minutes ago Dr Hugo Spadafora sent in a communique signed somewhere on the FSLN's southern front along with a personal message for our colleague Luis A. Carrizo, who is away on vacation. To Carrizo he sends warm greetings from the hot lands of the southern front for him and his family, wishing all a happy new year.

The communique indicates: After thorough and detailed investigations to confirm with certainty and accuracy both events and identities, we have been officially notified by the FSLN authorities of the names of the Panamanian comrade brigade members who fell in combat.

Unfortunately, Spadafora goes on, the conditions of this war prevent us from personally informing the relatives of our dead comrades with celerity. This is why we resort to this means of social communication.

According to the communique received this afternoon by this station, the Panamanians killed in combat are Oriel Sanchez Orribarria, a native of Chiriqui Province, and Erasmo Moreno, of Panama Province. Both fell in the course of a military operation on 18 December.

The members of the brigade, Dr Spadafora adds, have sworn that so long as we are alive, the memory of these fallen brothers will also remain alive. When we return, their independents will never lack our moral and material support.

[Signed] Dr Hugo Spadafora, Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade

ROYO ADDRESSES CANAL ZONE WORKERS, RESIDENTS

PA031507Y Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 3 Jan 79 p 1 PA

["Special New Year Message" by Panamanian President Aristides Royo on 1 January, place not given]

[Text] As we enter this new year, I would like to send my warmest greeting to all the workers of the Panama Canal and all the residents of the Canal Zone.

On behalf of my government and in the Panamanian people, I would like to express my faith and confidence in the new spirit of cooperation and friendship which will guide our relations for the next twenty years. 1979 will be another year of peace, coordination and mutual understanding.

In order to carry out the objectives which we all share, the representatives of the Panamanian Government will continue their active cooperation with the representatives of the workers, the community and the authorities of the Canal Zone.

I have a deep appreciation for the quality of the work and the spirit of responsibility of every man and woman who works in the Panama Canal's successful operation; moreover I understand your desire to maintain a way of life which properly compensates you for the important and significant work you perform.

The Panamanian Government is in the midst of intensive preparations in the implementation of the canal treaty. Soon we will be in a position to give specific answers to the numerous questions and the very understandable concerns of Panama Canal employees and residents.

This coming year will be a time of hope and challenge for the people of Panama and the people of the United States living in the Canal Zone--two friendly communities involved in a common task and goals.

I am convinced that all of us will join together to face the challenge of the new situations--that we will do so with the perseverance, faith and enthusiasm demanded by our times.

Again, season's greetings and God bless you all.

COMMENTATOR ON ROYO SPEECH, OPPOSITION TO SOVIET EMBASSY

PA040324Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[From "Comentarios y Opiniones del Profesor Don Lucho" program with Lucho Pimentel and Tonin Cabezas]

[Excerpts] [Lucho] I would like us to begin discussing the several points that make up the core of the speech that President Royo delivered to the citizenry on 1 January. The president's eight-point program for the 1978-1984 6-year period calls for a large dose of patience on the part of Panamanians and a large dose of credibility on the part of the persons concerned with those points. Specifically, it seems to us that for a New Year's speech, for a speech in which certain facts were to be presented or through which the citizens were to be informed of a government team's intentions, things should have been presented on a year-by-year basis.

I think that any government--not only this one, not necessarily that of President Royo--but any government planning or structuring a working basis, should do so knowing beforehand the mistakes made by previous administrations rather than by thinking about its achievements or so-called achievements. When one continues a policy, when a new government wishes to continue the policy of a previous administration, it does so knowing beforehand the great successes that [the former] government had in most of the areas concerned with the state apparatus.

But such has not been the case here. The revolutionary government has not been very successful in the country's various social and economic areas. On the contrary, many of these achievements have led the country to maintain a population of unemployed which totals over 100,000 and which is increasing every day. They have also managed to maintain the country at a zero growth level.

Thus, within a general framework we would say that continuity would be equivalent to continuing at zero and to increasing the number of unemployed. It would even mean a continuation of the class struggle brought about by the revolution when it confronted workers and businessmen. I think this is what we might understand by continuity--if we were to remain objective--because on the positive side one does not find anything in President Royo's speech, anything really concerned with the truly positive aspects of the revolutionary government. Either politically or institutionally, that speech said nothing.

Logically, you may point to a few things in connection with the institutional area. But really, to go any deeper into a system such as the institution of the assembly of representatives, which necessitates some type of reevaluation, means that this continuity is on the negative side.

On the economic side, what have we not mentioned? We have tried to point out some concepts in connection with the labor code, Law No 95, the private sector's position here in Panama over the past few years. Yet, after announcing arbitration, which is the position I regard as more just within the framework of the country's productive sectors, the president now announces that studies will be continued by the country's Economic Council.

These are the things that make us think that there is neither a true nor accurate policy nor a definition of the national government's line of conduct in connection with the country's production mechanisms or the workers.

Even if we are called witch hunters--because I must say that I personally do not hunt witches, only warlocks--I would like to announce to our listeners that there will be a mass at 1700 in Don Bosco Church on 8 January to say "No" to Russian-Cuban imperialism. Every conscientious Panamanian willing to fight against communist infiltration at the level of the educational reform or at any other level is urged to attend the mass for God and Panama which we will hold on Monday, 8 January, at 1700 in Don Bosco Church. From there we will march to the Foreign Ministry to demand that no Russian Embassy be opened here in Panama because we shall not tolerate relations with Russia in this country. We shall declare Russia non grata because it is a rule of espionage and subversion, an enemy of freedom, peace and faith--and this is God and fatherland.

Whoever agrees with us should be present at Don Bosco Church on 8 January at 1700 because the national government understands only in this manner. We have to begin developing a certain degree of awareness. They must realize we do not want to get rid of so-called U.S. imperialism only to fall under Russian-Cuban imperialism, which is 100 times worse than any plague.

BRIEFS

NEW RADIO LIBERTAD DIRECTOR--The executive branch, through the Government and Justice Ministry, yesterday appointed newsman Adan Castillo Galestica new director of Radio Libertad. He replaces Danilo Caballero, who will be appointed to another government post. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Jan 79 p 28 PA]

BELIZE

SHOMAN, PERDOMO RESIGN CABINET POSTS

FL031510Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 31 Dec 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Two ministerial resignations, coming close on the heels of one another, have reduced Premier Price's cabinet from ten (more than half of the House of Representatives) to eight.

The retiring ministers are Messrs Assad Shoman, attorney general and minister of state, who has asked to be relieved of his official duties so that he can give full-time attention to his constituency in El Cayo North, and Mr Santiago Perdomo, minister of trade and industry and consumer protection, whose resignation becomes effective December 31, 1978.

Mr Perdomo has resigned his ministry, but not the House of Representatives where he serves as the elected representative for Cayo South constituency. Unconfirmed reports say he will be taking over as the general manager of Save-U Supermarket.

Neither the resignation of Mr Perdomo nor that of Mr Shoman have been formally accepted by the premier. Mr Price is known to be opposed to the resignation of his minister of trade and is anxious that the resignation of Mr Shoman should not appear like a yielding to political pressures.

Yet it is known that no less than six senior ministers recently warned Price that they are not prepared to continue to serve in the same cabinet with Shoman.

COSTA RICA

BORDER REPORTED REOPENED 3 JANAURAY

PA040209Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The border was reopened today. Although it was closed for 10 minutes, everything returned to normal. A large number of vehicles crossed the border today and everything was normal, just as on any other normal day. A couple of shots were heard, which caused a border closing of 10 minutes, but then it was reopened.

The border was closed at 1600, just as it has been closed every day since September, but in general the situation at the border was normal. This will permit Central American trade to recover from the losses which such measures cause to the Central American countries.

SEVEN OAS OBSERVERS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK

PA031959Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The seven countries chosen by the OAS Permanent Council to send civilian observers to the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border have confirmed their participation. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier said that the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Paraguay, Jamaica, Panama, Honduras and Surinam have confirmed that they will send civilian observers, who are expected in Costa Rica this weekend.

The seven OAS observers and their four assistants, including one military officer, will remain at the border for 4 months. If the conflict persists at the end of this period, the OAS will name new persons to continue observing the border area.

Calderon Fournier pointed out that some of the nations chosen by the OAS voted for Costa Rica and Nicaragua at the OAS sessions. The observers will split up between the two countries--three in Nicaragua and three in Costa Rican territory--with the mission chief posted at the border itself. The four assistants will help the observers in the performance of their duties. The military officer will assess any technical situation that arises.

PREFERENTIAL OIL PACT EXPECTED FROM VENEZUELA

PA031916Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The new Venezuelan administration will compensate for the petroleum price increase. Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo and Venezuela's next president, Luis Herrera Campins, will sign an agreement for this purpose. According to official sources in the Carazo administration, talks are currently being held so that Venezuela will continue offering assistance regarding the petroleum price increase as it has done in recent years. It was explained that one of the reasons for President Carazo's trip to Venezuela for the presidential inauguration in March is, aside from attending the ceremony, to sign an assistance agreement between the two governments--which have similar ideologies--to compensate for the oil price increase.

Herrera Campins has agreed to the petroleum compensation agreement, unofficial sources said at the Presidency. President-elect Herrera Campins has agreed to continue the agreements signed in Puerto Ordaz at a 1974 summit meeting held by several regional chief executives. Several delegates and special envoys of President Rodrigo Carazo have been meeting with the future Venezuelan president in the past few weeks to determine his policies. The gradual increase agreed to by the OPEC countries will increase the Venezuelan Investment Fund for future credit operations with Costa Rica--as is the present policy of President Carlos Andres Perez.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENCY DENIES ATTENDANCE AT REPORTED SUMMIT

PA031946Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1738 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero did not meet last weekend with any of the other government leaders of Central America, stated Presidential Information Secretary Col Rafael Flores Lima.

The high official said that Gen Carlos Humberto Romero spent the holiday period analyzing the general situation in the Central American countries and various Salvadoran activities. He denied flatly that the president went somewhere else in Central America at the year's end.

At the end of December 1978 it was rumored that the Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan and Salvadoran chief executives had met in an unspecified place in Central America to discuss matters related to the delicate crisis in Nicaragua and terrorist activities.

On the other hand, Flores Lima said that General Romero's government under no condition would negotiate the demand for publication of subversive documents, which was put forward in El Salvador by the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), for the release of the Japanese executive, Takakazu Suzuki, it is holding.

GUATEMALAN PAPER PUBLISHES SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS' STATEMENT

PA031303Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0021 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan newspaper EL IMPARCIAL today published a two-page statement of the clandestine Salvadoran Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN)--one of the conditions imposed for the release of kidnaped Japanese industrialist Takakazu Suzuki in El Salvador.

The FARN statement includes testimony of Salvadorans Reynaldo Cruz Menjivar and Francisco Baltazar Campos Mendoza, who stated before a notary public that they were tortured and abused by the Salvadoran authorities.

Cruz Menjivar, a peasant from Chinenango, indicated that he asked for political asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy after he escaped from a Salvadoran rural guard prison. He had been held incommunicado and almost entirely without food for 9 months for being a Christian Democrat and charged with being a guerrilla.

Campos Mendoza stated that he was arrested by the Salvadoran National Guard and brutally tortured. He said that they tried to kill him by placing a dynamite stick on his body so that no trace of him would remain. After escaping, he took asylum in the Mexican Embassy.

The publication of the two testimonies was demanded by the FARN as a condition for releasing Japanese industrialist Suzuki, executive of the Industrias Sinteticas de Centroamerica (INSICA) textile firm, who was kidnaped in El Salvador.

GUATEMALA

ACAN REPORTS SECRET CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT

PA031736Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The recent meeting of military officers who hold the post of president or chief of state in four Central American countries continues to be subject today, Wednesday, to strict secrecy measures despite leaks that it took place somewhere in Guatemala.

This partial isthmian summit allegedly took place last week on Friday, but today, 5 days later, no authorities of Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, or Guatemala are willing to confirm it.

The summit was said to have been attended by Generals Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua, Carlos Humberto Romero of El Salvador, Romeo Lucas Garcia of Guatemala and Policarpo Paz Garcia of Honduras.

According to an "agenda" published today by the morning newspaper EL GRAFICO which bases its information on "very reliable sources in Nicaragua," the four chief executives first discussed "possible support for Nicaragua in keeping with the Central American military assistance agreements."

A discussion of "international moral support for Nicaragua in the current dispute with Costa Rica and the possibility of deteriorating relations with Venezuela and Panama" was also included in the "agenda."

A review of "the prevalent situation in Nicaragua with a virtual civil war and now the confrontation with Costa Rica and the current state of subversion in El Salvador" concluded the "agenda" topics.

The Presidency's Public Relations Secretariat, under newsman Carlos Toledo Vielmann, insists in Guatemala "that it cannot confirm or deny th meeting because we do not have any information"--despite the discovery of an unofficial agenda.

Therefore, the secrecy of this summit, which most likely would have been held on the Santo Tomas estate of the Presidency of the Republic, continues. The summit would be the first in a little over a year, and the only secret meeting of several that have taken place since December 1974. The December 1974 meeting in Venezuela was attended by the leaders of Central America, Panama and Venezuela.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DENOUNCE U.S. TROOP OFFER

PA032136Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1831 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Government has received an offer from its U.S. counterpart to station troops in two ports outfitted to operate a trans-oceanic oil pipeline. This report was made today by former Deputy Rodolfo Maldonado, the Guatemalan Christian Democrats' international affairs secretary. According to the source, that objective and the offer have already been reported by daily newspapers in the FRG, from which Guatemalan Christian Democrats got the information.

The deployment of U.S. Army troops to both oceans, Maldonado said, would have a double objective: "to protect U.S. interests in the oil pipeline and help stabilize the Guatemalan Government, which is experiencing a grave internal crisis." According to the international secretary, the presence of U.S. troops in Guatemalan ports on the Atlantic and Pacific "would constitute a more serious interventionist attitude than in the Panama Canal because it would take place here without any real or fictitious basis."

"Behind all this," Maldonado adds, "one can see the great interest of the U.S. Government in feigning economic benefits for Guatemala while openly intervening militarily." The "fictitious" economic benefits, according to Maldonado, would (in addition to the foregoing) seek to prevent "Guatemala from exercising its rights to claim the return of the territory of Belize from Britain." He added that "by making an immediate denunciation, the Guatemalan Christian Democrats want to alert the people and even the authorities to forestall even worse evils to the nation."

The transoceanic oil pipeline has been planned since last year when two firms with private U.S. capital offered to build it as a "cheaper alternative for transporting the oil which the United States needs and which must now be shipped through the Panama Canal."

Gustavo Barrios Flores, mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy under secretary, said at the end of last week that none of the projects could be started because "adequate legislation that should precede this type of economic project does not exist." Barrios Flores noted that the projects could not be accepted since the multinational consortiums were placing conditions when only the country has the right to impose them.

He also said that the project would have to be studied carefully because "it poses political, social, economic, security and national sovereignty problems which cannot be disregarded." However, he said, "it is not known whether the U.S. Government supports the initiative by private U.S. investors. Therefore, the matter cannot be discussed with greater certainty without that information."

The transoceanic oil pipeline would be more than 400 km long and would bypass most of Guatemala's industry underground.

HONDURAS

SOCIALIST PARTY ESTABLISHED, ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA031939Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1754 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The clearly Marxist-oriented Honduran Socialist Party [Partido Socialista Hondureno--PSH] today emerged on the national political scene. It is led by well-known university Professor Marcos Virgilio Carias.

A statement published in the major newspapers stated that the PSH has been established as a "popular alternative to achieve the unity of peasants, workers, students, intellectuals and professors." The socialist manifesto was signed by President Marcos Virgilio Carias, Secretary General Tomas A. Garcia de Torres and other leftist intellectuals. It indicated that the basic objectives of the PSH are the elimination of exploitation of man by man, the establishment of socialism in Honduras and the replacement of private property by the people's social property.

The socialists' communique analyzed the concept of democracy in its economic, political and social context, stating that democracy is characterized by the peasants' right to land, workers' rights to jobs and the rights of children and youth to scientific education.

The party's emblem is a cogwheel with a machete--the main tool of peasants--and a hammer--the tool of workers--in the center and the words: "For Liberation and Socialism."

The lengthy communique of the newly emerged party strongly criticizes local economic dependence on the industrialized countries, the new relationship between the army and the people, the "obsolete" political parties and the situation of poverty, insecurity and unemployment in the country.

The PSH did not indicate if its emergence on the local political scene is aimed at participation in the electoral process that will culminate in April 1980 when the deputies to the National Constituent Assembly, who will select the next president, will be elected.

There are only three legally registered parties in the country--the National, Liberal and the Innovation and Unity parties. Christian Democracy is making great efforts to be legally recognized by the electoral tribunal.

CEMENT SHORTAGE CAUSING CONSTRUCTION LOSSES

PA040247Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0140 GMT 4 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The acute cement shortage in Honduras has caused heavy losses in the construction industry, which has been forced to suspend many projects. In addition, the directors and executives of construction companies are living under the threat of suits for nonfulfillment of contracts and the dismissal of construction workers whom they cannot keep on the payroll indefinitely.

The country's sole cement factory alleges it is having technical problems with its machinery, but the engineers state that it is using "blackmail" to obtain government authorization to raise construction material prices. The construction companies are irritated because the cement shortage is compounded by the greed of some distributors who will sell cement only if other construction materials are purchased from them.

Several construction company representatives told ACAN-EFE that they have stood in line for several days to obtain four 100-pound sacks of cement, which hardly appeases the demands of their contractors. They said that the government has been too lenient with the cement factory, which released cement for sale when the decision to import cement was imminent and then requested export permits which were immediately granted.

At the present time there is talk of importing 200,000 bags of cement from Nicaragua to partially alleviate the current shortage.

NICARAGUA

SANDINISTS STAGE ATTACKS IN TIPITAPA, ELSEWHERE

PA040242Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1950 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A group of Sandinist fighters yesterday evening carried out a daring attack in the city of Tipitapa, only 21 km from this capital. The insurgents seized the powerplant and cut the supply of electricity while several vehicles cruised the municipality exploding bombs, shooting in the air and urging the people to support the revolutionary struggle against Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime.

The blackout lasted 30 minutes. A military spokesman for the Tipitapa barracks said that "following the turmoil raised by those elements, several National Guard patrols chased the group, but they fled without leaving any wounded. No one was captured." The guerrilla action created fear among the citizens of this town north of Managua.

The illegal Sandinist organization has been carrying out actions continuously. Another Sandinist action was carried out by 12 armed elements in the San Francisco Farm, a crossing 18 km south of Managua, where the group, which included a woman, recovered several firearms.

In Masaya, 30 km east of this capital, a guerrilla cell executed Alejandro Aransidia Vendana on charges that he was a National Guard informer. Five taxi drivers have been killed during the past week by the Sandinist Front for the same reason.

A communique issued by the Proletarian faction of the Sandinist Front notes that two attempts have been made on the life of Alberto Gutierrez, a Managua police commander. According to the communique, he escaped the second attempt because the Garand rifle with which he was going to be executed malfunctioned. In that attack one of the police commander's agents died and another was wounded.

In an operation called "the arrival of popular justice," Carlos Reyes, a man believed to be a paramilitary henchman, was wounded and Sgt German Morales of the 5th National Guard Company was killed.

Again in Tipitapa, a Modelo Prison soldier was captured and disarmed, but his life was spared and he was set free thanks to "revolutionary generosity," according to the communique.

In the past 7 days the organization has recovered 7 revolvers, 6 pistols, rifles and a carbine in 14 operations.

The police reported today that three of the six young people killed the night before last during clashes with Managua police allegedly have been identified as Mauricio Larajne, Gar Sandoval [name as received] and Berta Diaz, all residents of the Guaspan neighborhood. It has been stated that they did not participate in any clash between guerrillas and the military.

SEVERAL GROUPS WORK TO ESTABLISH PATRIOTIC FRONT

PA032002Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The various organizations willing to form the Patriotic Front yesterday established committees to draft the principles of the new opposition alliance.

The document will begin to be discussed in a meeting on 5 January. There are also plans for the admittance of new groups to the United People's Movement [MPU] and the Patriotic Front. The groups which have already decided to join are the (?NPU), the (?CTN), the Group of 12, the Independent Republicans, the Popular Social Christian Party [Partido Popular Social Cristiano], Aguerist Conservatives and the Association of Democratic Lawyers.

The Association of Educators of Nicaragua, the Doctors Federation and the Workers Front [Frente Obrero] are still considering whether to join. The Association of Rural Workers has confirmed its membership in the MPU, while the Radio Newsmen's Union will decide at any moment the question of its entrance into the MPU.

OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS GOVERNMENT SITUATION 'DESPERATE'

PA022041Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Nicaragua's economy is deteriorating, the regime is agonizing and this year will be crucial for Somoza, according to Fernando Aguero Rocha. Amnesty has never existed in Nicaragua and Somoza's threat is not backed by the Costa Rican people, the major opposition leader said. Aguero Rocha is in Costa Rica and made the following analysis for this newscast on the situation in his country:

[Begin Aguero Rocha recording] Nicaragua's situation cannot be more desperate in view of the blows it has suffered from the dictatorship. That is to say, the nation is expectant and completely united with a single thought: The dictator must leave Nicaragua in order for true peace to return to our country.

[Question] Have the efforts of the mediating commission been a failure?

[Answer] I would not say the commission failed. Actually, I would say Somoza failed. He tried to get the mediating commission to work for him, to stage a plebiscite to his liking. [end recording]

FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS COULD GO TO PANAMA

PA040329Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0223 GMT 4 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Havana, 3 Jan (EFE)--Some of the former Cuban political prisoners and their families who want to leave Cuba could leave for Panama in the near future. The statement was made to EFE by Roblejo Lorie before he left by plane for the United States. The possibility emerged from a meeting between Lorie and Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores in which the latter said that he would discuss the matter with President Aristides Royo as soon as he returned to Panama.

The Panamanian foreign minister is visiting Havana as a guest for celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the revolution. The request by the Group of 75, of which Roblejo Lorie is a member, was made to him last night. A commission of representatives of the Cuban community abroad has been in Havana since 29 December. The commission consists of the Reverends Reyes and Espinosa, Lorie, and Rafael Betancourt, who delivered yearend presents to the existing political prisoners.

During the meeting with the Panamanian foreign minister it was not decided how many former prisoners and relatives could go to Panama or the date or manner in which the transfer would be made. Nevertheless, Lorie added that specific steps may be taken at the end of this month by Panama and Cuba to facilitate the departure of the former prisoners.

Roblejo Lorie confirmed to EFE that the first 400 political prisoners were released on 30 and 31 December as promised by Council of State President Fidel Castro. Of that number, only 135 have so far agreed to leave for the United States with their families.

When the commission of the Cuban community abroad returns to the United States, it will coordinate flights for the transfer of the former prisoners and their relatives who wish to leave. Lorie added that the departures may be on 12 and 15 January, and that the Cuban authorities offered to deliver the second list of 400 political prisoners to be released on 10 January.

CASTRO BROTHERS ATTEND RECEPTION FOR VISITING DELEGATIONS

FL031123Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night attended the reception given by the PCC Central Committee and Cuba's Council of State for the delegations participating in the commemorative activities of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. Also present in the reception were army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; members of the Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee; vice presidents of the Councils of State and Ministers; other state leaders; and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba.

FAR HOSTS RECEPTION FOR VISITING MILITARY DELEGATIONS

FL031137Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] hosted a cocktail party for the military delegations invited to the commemorative activities of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

Participating in the party were PCC Central Committee members Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the Council of State and FAR first vice minister-chief of the general staff; Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana, FAR vice minister-chief of the Central Political Directorate; and Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria, FAR vice minister-chief of the Revolutionary Navy. Others present were Div Gen Francisco Cabrera, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and FAR vice minister-chief of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force, and Col Demetrio Montseny Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry Foreign Relations Directorate.

The foreign military delegations visiting our country have visited the Jose Marti pioneer city, where they toured installations and the museum which was Comdr Ernesto Che Guevara's residence for some time.

VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS CELEBRATION

FL302009Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Albert Consalvi, accompanied by his wife, is in this capital to participate in the festivities to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. Others accompanying the Venezuelan foreign minister include Ramon J. Velazquez, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of that country's National Congress, and Ramon Delgado, Venezuelan ambassador to Cuba.

Upon his arrival at Jose Marti International Airport, Minister Consalvi and his entourage were received by Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister and member of the PCC Central Committee; and Ricardo Alarcon, vice foreign minister.

SOVIET DELEGATION LEADER ROMANOV DEPARTS

FL040036Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, today bid farewell at the airport to Grigoriy Romanov, member of the CPSU Politburo. The Soviet leader headed the delegation from his country which participated in the events commemorating the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

Romanov was also bid farewell by Politburo member Juan Almeida; Zoilo Marinello, member of the Central Committee; and Marshal Sergey Sokolov, first deputy defense minister of the USSR.

RAUL CASTRO CHAIRS DECORATION OF CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS

FL021127Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], chaired the ceremony held to decorate the participants in the peasants and workers congresses in arms with the 20th FAR anniversary medal. Those historic events took place during the last months of 1958 in liberated territory of the Frank Pais second front, which was under the command of the then Commander Raul Castro.

Present at the solemn ceremony held in this capital's Gen Maximo Gomez FAR Military Academy were PCC Politburo members Juan Almeida and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, PCC Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero and other members of the PCC Central Committee.

Veiga, Ramirez Make Speeches

FL021219Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Jan 79 FL

[Excerpt] In the ceremony held at the Gen Maximo Gomez Military Academy, the speakers were PCC Central Committee members Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers; Jose Ramirez Cruz, president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP]; and Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana, Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] vice minister-chief of the Central Political Directorate, who made the closing remarks.

Veiga said that the awarding of the 20th FAR anniversary medal constitutes a recognition of the merit of those who knew how to overcome difficulties and risks to organize workers and peasants and defend their rights against the exploitation of landowners and bourgeois.

In an emotional speech Jose Ramirez Cruz noted the gains made in 20 years of revolution in the countryside and the Cuban peasants' decision to advance toward socialist forms of production. The ANAP president, who also participated in those two historic events, stated: [Begin recording] We must express our most sincere gratitude for having been awarded the 20th FAR anniversary medal, which we will always keep close to our hearts as a high honor for our modest contribution in revolutionary tasks during our time. [end recording]

Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana pointed out in his closing remarks that the meeting with the participants in the two congresses in arms makes one evoke those days and recall with profound respect and admiration those who fell and gave their lives for the liberation of the people. He added that the workers congress in arms served as a proper framework for the workers to express their support for the revolution. Elsewhere in his speech he stressed: [Begin recording] The historic merit of the peasant congress resides in the fact that it tied its traditional struggle for the land to the interests of the revolutionary struggle in general, demonstrating that its class' problems were, are and will be closely tied to the reforms being carried out by the revolution for the sake of all society under the leadership of the working class, its vanguard party and, very especially, our commander in chief.

SENEN CASAS PRESIDES AT FAR RATIONALIZATION MEETING

FL301522Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the general staff, opened the second conference and exhibit on rationalization and invention in the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. Also attending the conference which is taking place at the military-technical institute was Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado, FAR vice minister and chief of the Revolutionary Navy. Others attending included other chiefs and dozens of rationalizers and inventors from the various industrial enterprises and from the various FAR commands.

The conference is taking place under the slogan: We will innovate today more than yesterday, and tomorrow more than today. Lt Col Enrique Batlle, chief of the FAR commission for rationalization and invention, read the main report of the conference. During the activity there were presentations by other chiefs who reported on the work of rationalization in their respective commands. The report read by Lt Col Enrique Batlle states that among the conditions of a socialist society the scientific-technical revolution plays a greater and greater role in the environment, society, production, man and, in particular, in the armed forces.

He said that the rationalizer and inventor movement in the FAR has been increasing year after year, which is a good factor to be continued in developing this work. He also spoke of the need to continue improving the methods to guarantee a good organization and management of this work.

In his opening remarks at the conference Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro stated that they had harvested achievements in the rationalization and invention tasks in the FAR, but that there were still some deficiencies. He called on those attending to critically study the work undertaken over these last few years. He stressed that the meeting should be used to generalize the best experiences, and that the final results should be directed at increasing the combat mobilization and readiness of the FAR. Later on, Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro referred to the quality of the works presented at the exhibit and added:

[Begin recording] Maybe during this meeting we will not find answers to all of the problems affecting rationalization and invention in the FAR; but because we ask the questions, discuss them, exchange opinions and viewpoints on possible solutions, this creates a basis to arrive at solutions. We declare this second conference and exhibit on rationalization and invention in the FAR Ministry, which has been organized in honor of the 20th anniversary of the triumph of our revolution, open. And we call on you to make this one more factor in the scientific-technical development of our FAR. [end recording]

FURTHER ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ORDINARY SESSION

Details of 1979 Budget

PA300355Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1229 GMT 29 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 29 Dec (EFE)--The Cuban state budget for fiscal year 1979 will amount to 9,408,800,000 pesos (approximately $11.761 billion) in accordance with the law unanimously approved by the People's Government National Assembly last night. The deputies of Cuba's top legislative body analyzed the scope of state investments in various fields of national life as detailed in the draft of the national budget and development law.

The Cuban Government will obtain a surplus of 4.7 million pesos (about $5.75 million) from revenues expected during the period.

The productive sector will receive an allocation of 3,883,200,000 pesos, education and health 1,684,800,000 pesos and other social and scientific activities 1,242,200,000 pesos. These 3 activities are followed in importance by the budget for defense and domestic order which will total 840.9 million pesos (approximately $1,000,500,000).

The single Cuban development plan for 1979 foresees a 6-percent increase in total social production with a volume of 2.850 billion pesos (almost $3 billion). Labor productivity should increase next year by 4 percent and retail commercial circulation by 5 percent. The total 4-percent increase in labor productivity is broken down by sectors to include 3 percent in industry, 5 percent in construction, 3 percent in agriculture and fishing and 5 percent in transportation.

This development plan, which is approved as law, calls for a 4-percent increase in the wage fund, the construction of 20,000 houses and a 3-percent increase in hospital capacity. The state budget and the single development plan will go into effect on 1 January 1979. The National Assembly reiterated the strict obligations necessary for the plan's fulfillment.

New Deputies Announced

FL291243 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 1232 GMT on 29 December reporting on yesterday's National Assembly session says that Assembly President Blas Roca announced the recent death of Deputies (Edelfina Garcia Martinez) of Tercer Frente and Ernesto Salgado Campos of Mayari. Havana adds that they were replaced by Ismael Davila Tamayo of Mayari and (Redy Ferrero Leyva) of Tercer Frente. Havana further reports that new Deputy Manuel Piedra Paez of Batabano took the oath of office replacing Eduardo Salgado Figueroa, "who resigned his high responsibility."

International Activities of Assembly

FL292143Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 29 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Dr Raul Roa Garcia, vice president of the People's Government National Assembly, today read the report on the international activities conducted by the state's highest organ, which was unanimously approved by the deputies. Before the second ordinary session, Roa recounted the assembly's work in the different parliamentary meetings in which it participated. Roa pointed out our country's position in those conclaves where, he said, the unrestricted support for the struggle of the national liberation movements had been reiterated once more. He stressed the solidary support of the National Assembly for the peoples' struggle against imperialism. He referred to the opportunity afforded to the Cuban delegation to strengthen relations with different parliaments, and noted the visits to our country by parliamentary delegations from various countries.

Electrical Service Problems

FL301451Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 30 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] A critical report on the problems with deferred payments in electricity service was submitted for the deputies to study by the industries commission of the People's Government National Assembly. The document states that by the present payment system the consumer is not able to establish a relationship between what he consumes and what he pays per month, and that the electrical energy organs have not consistently faced the task of improving this problem. It states that the frequency and duration of outages causes the greatest annoyance among the population, and that the low voltage harms the electrical household appliances, and the nonexistence of an adequate organizational structure does not permit the residential sector to be handled as it should.

It also refers to the illegal use of electrical service which reaches a total of 111,000 electrical lines, and the document proposes that the Electrical Industry Ministry study the possibility of substituting within a 1-year period the deferred payment system with a monthly system or a reading system in which users take part. During the discussion of the document, Fidel congratulated the commission for the report presented. He expanded on some of the problems of production and distribution of electrical energy and stressed the recommendations made to solve the deficiencies.

More Reports Heard

FL301904Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] With the approval of the report presented by the construction commission on building materials, and [words indistinct] and figures on the amount of housing space, the regular session of the People's Government National Assembly continued this morning on its third day of meeting at Karl Marx Theater.

The session was presided over by Blas Roca, member of the Politburo and president of the National Assembly. Others prsent included our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers; and other members of the Politburo and Council of State.

During today's session the report examining the maintenance of school, child care, public health, retail and service installations, which was presented by Deputy Pascasio Sabino Castaneda, was submitted and approved by the assembly.

Following the maintenance report, the reports read by the Deputies Maximo Andion on the proposal made by Batabano Municipal [Havana Province] Assembly on anchorage and by Julio Cesar Gonzalez on the housing situation in zones of the building moratorium in Playa Municipality [Havana City Province] were unanimously approved.

Assembly Session Ends

PA311951Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] The second period of sessions of the People's Government National Assembly concluded this afternoon after approving emotional congratulations to Fidel Castro on the 20th anniversary of the victory of the revolution and his outstanding work in leading our country over the past two decades. The motion was read by Blas Roca, president of the National Assembly, and was unanimously approved by more than 440 deputies who participated in this fruitful period of sessions which started on Thursday at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana.

Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, expressed his appreciation in a short speech. He stated that he was receiving the congratulations on behalf of all the comrades who over the past 20 years had devoted their lives to the noble cause of the revolution and also for those who started the struggle many years before.

Fidel recalled 30 December 1958, when all our people fought against Fulgencio Batista's proimperialist dictatorship. He said that Cuban revolutionaries work today with the same devotion and faith in victory they had then, certain of the bright future for our fatherland.

The National Assembly had previously approved the naming of 1979 as the "20th year of victory." It also approved several reports and studies presented by the permanent commissions as well as the new penal code, the budget, the 1979 plan for socioeconomic development, and many laws and decrees pertaining to economic, social and cultural matters.

ARMANDO HART RECEIVES ARTISTIC DELEGATION RETURNING FROM U.S.

FL031440Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1344 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, has received at his ministry's office the Cuban artistic delegation which gave a performance in recent days in New York City. The delegation was composed of Elena Burke, the Aragon orchestra directed by Rafael (Lai), Los Patines combo and guitarist Tomas Martinez, who gave a performance on 28 December at the Lincoln Center and subsequently at Casa de Las Americas in Manhattan.

As has been reported, the Cuban artists, who gave a successful performance on 28 December at the Lincoln Center, were unable to repeat their program on the 29th due to the terrorist attack perpetrated by counterrevolutionary elements. Nevertheless, the performance was presented at Casa de las Americas, located at 14th Street, New York City, with two shows and large audiences.

In their meeting with Culture Minister Armando Hart, the members of the Cuban delegation reported on their tour's personal experiences in the presence of newsmen of the cultural sector. Elena Burke, Rafael (Lai) and the rest of the delegation members noted the success of their performance at Lincoln Center on 28 December, and the solidarity expressed by members of the Latin American colony and North American sympathizers with the Cuban Revolution when the terrorist attack became known. Even when we were away from the hotel, (Lai) stated, they approached us and asked us if anyone had been hurt, condemning the criminal action.

After the 29 December performance was canceled due to damages to the theater, the Cuban artists decided to present the shows at Casa de las Americas, where large audiences defied very low temperatures and strong winds during long hours to watch the performance. Favorable reaction to the artistic programs reached such a level, our artists added, that the city's television, the New York TIMES and other press organs had to echo the success. In the interview with Armando Hart, the delegation members expressed their firm decision to continue to disseminate Cuban music in the United States and any other country as a revolutionary task. The returning delegation was accorded numerous demonstrations of support, equal to those accorded to the Moncada group, Los Iraqueres, Silvio Rodriguez and the Cuban National Ballet in past visits.

GARCIA CONGRATULATES NUEVITAS PORT WORKERS

FL031853Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The work feats of our workers have been many and, within them, the productive achievements of the Nuevitas Port workers who have overfulfilled their annual [cargo handling] plan by 262,000 tons, which means 136 percent [of the plan] and only 10,000 tons short of a million, is especially significant. This statement has been made by Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia, member of the PCC Politburo, in a letter of congratulations to the workers of that port terminal for their hard work.

Elsewhere in his letter, Guillermo Garcia emphasized that the achievement of the Nuevitas Port workers is representative of the work done in our ports, of the efforts of our party, our trade unions, our administration and of the workers at the "millionaire" ports of Guillermo Moncada in Santiago de Cuba and Haiphong in Havana and many others.

ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY EXHIBIT OPENS

FL011643Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1508 GMT 1 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The exhibit entitled "Ethiopia: The Victorious Revolution" was inaugurated at Vedado's Havana Libre Hotel hall of exhibits. The opening remarks at the exhibit, which is a demonstration of Cuban-Ethiopian brotherhood, were made by PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Raul Valdes Vivo and Capt Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress, secretary general of Ethiopia's Provisional Administrative Council. Displayed in the exposition is graphic evidence of Fidel's visits to that fraternal African country and posters, maps, magazines and artistic objects. Others attending the event were PCC Central Committee members, delegations invited to the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revOlution and Cuban Government leaders and officials.

In his speech inaugurating the Ethiopian exhibit, Raul Valdes Vivo affirmed that it constitutes a testimony of Ethiopian patriotism and socialist solidarity. He added that the exposition fully reflects the principal element in Ethiopia's struggle of the popular masses. Referring to the Ethiopian revolution, Valdes Vivo noted that Ethiopia has gained the right to be fully independent, sovereign, free, united and cohesive at last, at the service of the people, following centuries of accumulated hunger and sufferings, because the masses have said: Enough. He added that Cuba now is what it has become because its people became a part of the Moncada and, at the Sierra Maestra, they reclaimed Marti's and Maceo's tradition of high principles.

In another part of his speech, Valdes Vivo stated that Cuba has returned to Africa and added: What is rare about that? Whom can that offend? From there it came, to a certain degree. It arrived in chains among the slaves who were hunted, as if they were wild animals, by the promoters of Western capitalism, and has now returned there with Soviet arms to contribute to the heroic efforts directed at breaking the chains of the African peoples. Valdes Vivo recalled that since 1917, to break chains is the order of the day. The most important thing for Ethiopia and Cuba, he noted, is not its strategic significance in geography but in history. He stressed that the two peoples are united to defend peace and the revolution, as reflected in the exhibit.

Capt Fikre-Selassie Wodgeress conveyed a message of friendship from Ethiopian revolution leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in his remarks. He stated that the inspiration obtained by the Ethiopian revolution from the Cuban Revolution is profound, and added that in 1974 his people selected Cuba's example, which is the struggle for equality and socialism. He recalled that when the Ethiopian revolution was traversing a critical phase, Cuba's sons, inspired in proletarian internationalism, adopted a historic decision in favor of Ethiopia's revolution. He stressed that the Ethiopian revolution is victorious as a result of the Soviet Union's and Cuba's internationalist aid.

JUAN ALMEIDA MEETS WITH LUIS CABRAL IN ALGIERS

FL301404Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Luis Cabral, president of Guinea-Bissau, has received in Algiers Juan Almeida, vice president of the Cuban Council of State. At the meeting which lasted almost 1 hour, they examined various aspects of the growing relations between the two countries and the upcoming nonalined summit conference to be held in Havana in 1979.

AMBASSADOR TO SRV REITERATES CUBAN SUPPORT

FL031409Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1318 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Ambassador Melba Hernandez has addressed the Vietnamese people over Hanoi's national television to reiterate our country's support for the Vietnamese cause. After recounting our country's events in the past 20 years, the Cuban diplomat said Cuba has always supported the Vietnamese people's just cause under the leadership of their Marxist-Leninist party and has highly valued Vietnam's contribution to world revolution.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PLD LEADER CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF REFINERY

FL031639Y Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Excerpt] A former president of the republic today reiterated the need that the Dominican petroleum refinery be owned by the Dominican and Venezuelan governments as an urgent measure to compensate for the oil price rise. Juan Bosch, who also is president of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD], said that the second action in this regard must be immediate legislation so that if oil is found in our country it will belong only to the state. The oil must not belong to any intermediary enterprise even if specialized technicians are brought in to exploit it, Bosch said.

HAITI

PRESIDENT DUVALIER ANNOUNCES 'MORE DYNAMIC' FOREIGN POLICY

PA030430Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0345 GMT 3 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 2 Jan (AFP)--Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier today announced a "policy of more dynamic opening toward the Third World countries" and the establishment of "new embassies in Africa." Duvalier, who made a speech to the nation on the occasion of "the day of the forefathers"--on the day following the 175th anniversary of the country's independence--also promised "to improve relations between Haiti and other Caribbean countries." He especially emphasized cooperation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The Haitian president revealed for the first time that a Haitian commission had visited Brussels to establish new relations of cooperation with the European Community and said that cooperation with the United States is developing "at a satisfactory rate." Duvalier announced the establishment of price controls and a "decisive" turn for his "economic revolution" for 1979 and reaffirmed the continuation of the liberation process "within the limits of peace and security for all."

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT TO PROBE ALLEGATIONS OF TEXACO PULLOUT

FL031746Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 3 Jan 79 FL

[Text] The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has appointed a commission of inquiry to probe allegations that the Texaco Oil Company is considering pulling out of the island. Announcement of the government probe came in the wake of a 2-day emergency cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Eric Williams. The emergency meeting was triggered by charges that Texaco will cut production by half and is planning to shut down its operations in protest against Trinidad taxation of the industry. In making the charge, the boss of the oilfield workers trade union, (George Weeks), also said Texaco wanted to force the government to relax its corporation tax policies and make them more favorable to the company. In a statement issued in Port-of-Spain, the government said there could be serious implications for Trinidad economic development if the allegations proved true.